

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4641

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

/AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 2577

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PL

SUBJECT: GIEREK ANNOUNCES ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION IN PRESS
BACK-GROUNDER

REF: WARSAW 2137, 2496

1. ON APRIL 25, GIEREK HELD HIS THIRD MEETING THIS YEAR WITH
SENIOR EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS AND, LARGELY ON BACKGROUND
BASIS, REVEALED THE OUTLINES OF THE PLAN AND TIMEING FOR THE
REORGANIZATION OF THE LOCAL PARTY AND GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE.
OFFICIAL POLISH PRESS AGENCY ACCOUNTS OF THE MEETING STATE
THAT GIEREK DISCUSSED PROBLEMS OF GOVERNMENTAL ADMINISTRATION
AND ECONOMIC MANGEMENT AND "ACTIONS NECESSARY TO STIMULATE
PUBLIC, INITIATIVE, INCREASE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE GOV-
ERNING QLAVTHE COUNTRY, AND ESTABLISH SOCUFLIST
DEMOCRACY". HE CLAIMED SUCCESS AND PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE FOR THE 1973
REORGANIZATION OF THE GMINA, AND
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SAID THAT DYNAMIC GROWTH IN PRODUCTION AND THE ECONOMY HAD

CREATED THE BASIC CONDIDTIONS FOR A "HIGHER, MORE MODERN STAGE IN THE PROCESSES OF THE FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNING AND CONTROLLING OUR COUNTRY." THIS OBLIQUE FORMULATION IN AS CLOSE AS THE PRESS CAME TO REVEALING THE FORTHCOMING REORGANIZATION. HOWEVER, A NORMALLY RELIABLE JOURNALISTIC SOURCE WHO VIEWED THE MEETING ON CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION HAS GIVEN US A DETAILED ACCOUNT.

2. GIEREK BEGAN THE ONE-HOUR-AND-FIFTEEN-MINUTE MEETING WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE REORGANIZATION. HE SAID THAT THE PRESENT 17 WOJEWODZTOWS WOULD BE DIVIDED INTO A TOTAL OF 46 PLUS 3 INDEPENDENT "GREAT" CITIES: WARSAW, LODZ, AND KRAKOW. THERE WILL BE A CENTAL COMMITTEE PLENUM ON MAY 12 TO TAKE ACTION ON THIS AND A SEJM SESSION BEFORE THE END OF MAY TO ENACT THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REORGANIZATION IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 1. GIEREK APOLOGIZED TO THE PRESS FOR NOT HAVING DISCUSSED THIS WITH THEM BEFORE, POINTING OUT THAT THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE POLITBIURO FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PROGRAM HAD ITS CRITICS, BUT SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT IN TWO YEARS THE CRITICS THEMSELVES WOULD BE PRAISING THE REORGANIZATION AND ACCEPTING A SHARE OF THE CREDIT FOR THE IDEA. GIEREK'S RATIONALE FOR THE REORGANIZATION WAS THE NEED FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY AND BETTER MANAGMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND BRINGING IT CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE. HE ADDIED THAT THE 392 POWIATS WOULD BE ABOLISHED SO THAT THE REFORMED AND REORGANIZED GMINAS WOULD BE DIRECTLY SUBORDINATE TO THE NEW WOJEWODZTWOS.

3. GIEREK'S PRESENTATION TOOK UP ABOUT 45 MINUTES. HE THEN OPENED THE FLOOR TO QUESTIONS, ALL EXCEPT TWONOF WHICH THE SOURCE THOUGHT TECHNICAL AND UNINTERESTING. ONE OF THESE TWO WAS ABOUT THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE NEWSPAPERS WHICH ARE NOW THE ORGANS OF THE 17 PRESENT WOJEWODZTWO COMMITTEES OF THE PARTY. GIEREK SAID THAT THE PAPERS WOULD REMAIN IN EXISTENCE, BUT ALL WOULD BECOME ORGANS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. FINALLY, GIEREK READ A WRITTEN QUESTION WHICH ASKED OF WHAT IMPORTANCE THIS REORGANIZATION WAS TO THE CENTRAL PARTY LEADERSHIP ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, THIS WAS CLEARLY A POLITICAL CONFIDENTIAL

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QUESTION. GIEREK SAID THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO REPLY TO THAT QUESTION "AT THIS TIME", BUT IF THE COMRADE WHO ASKED IT WISHED TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE HIM HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER AT GREATH LENGTH. THERE WERE NO FURTHER QUESTIONS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION, THE SOURCE AGREED THAT GIEREK'S COMMENTS INDICATE THE TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE

REORGANIZATION HAS BEEN MOVED UP, BUT HAD NO EXPLANATION FOR THIS . HE ALSO DOES NOT EXPECT ANY FURTHER DETAILS OF THE REORGANIZATION TO BE MADE PUBLIC UNTIL THE MAY 12 PLENUM.

5. COMMENT: A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR THE APPARENTLY ACCELERATED TIMETABLE FOR THIS PROJECT MAY BE THAT THE GIEREK ADMINISTRATION HAS DISCOVERED, AS WE HAVE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR SOURCES, THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE REORGANIZATION, OR, AT A MINIMUM, A LACK OF SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION. ALTHOUGH NOT PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED AND, ACCORDING TO SOME OF OUR SOURCES, STILL TECHNICALLY A STATE SECRET, THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED QUITE ONLY AND WIDELY IN CONVERSATIONS FOR THE PAST 2-3 WEEKS. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE GIEREK ADMINISTRATION LEAKED THE BASIC OUTLINES OF THE PROJECT TO TEST THE REACTION OF THE PUBLIC, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY OF THE INTELLIGENTSIA, AND, FINDING THE OPPOSITION LESS THAN ANTICIPATED, DECIDED TO PROCEED AT A FASTER PACE.
DAVIES

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